

SURREY
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BULLETIN

April, 1968

Edited by Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Turner, 21 Evesham Road, Reigate.

S.A.S. MEETINGS

- 20th April: Visit to Norwood Hill and Outwood.
- 27th April: A.G.M. at Guildford.
- 25th May: Visit to Chaldon and Croydon.

Details of these and other meetings are given elsewhere
in this *Bulletin*.

EXCAVATION NOTICES

BADSHOT LEA: SITE OF MOATED MANOR HOUSE
(N.G.R.: SU 863486)

Excavation on this site will continue on Sundays throughout the Summer. Last season several medieval pits were found under the levels of the 13th century building. The discovery of related beam slots and post holes emphasised the need for further work to examine what appears to be a post-Conquest timber building. It is proposed to area excavate the island in the hope that plans of all three building periods present may be compiled. The developers are intending to make a start towards the end of 1968.

All helpers are welcome. Please bring personal excavation tools.

Directions: From Farnham - Guildford road (A31) turn at the traffic lights at Runfold railway bridge onto the A324. Bear right. The site is about $\frac{1}{2}$ miles on the left behind a high, red brick wall. Entrance across cattle grid. Car parking on the site.

Enquiries to Mr. I. G. Dormor, 28 Bridgefield, Farnham (5491).

KING WILLIAM IV, EWELL HIGH STREET: R-B SITE
(TQ 220626)

Director: ROGER CAWS

Excavation has been resumed on the site behind the King William IVth public house, 23/25 High Street, Ewell, where R-B remains have been found. The work, arranged by the Nonsuch and Ewell Antiquarian Society, is taking place every weekend until 21st April.

Subject to Corporation approval, it is hoped to arrange a final full time excavation from Friday, 12th April, until Sunday, 21st April. Members of the S.A.S. and students over 15 years of age welcome.

Enquiries to Roger Caws, 13 Birkenhead Avenue, Kingston.

OATLANDS PALACE

Directors: ALAN COOKE and BRYAN BLAKE

Trial excavations at the site of Oatlands Palace (1537-1652) commenced on Saturday, 30th March, 1968, and are planned to run for approximately four weeks. The excavations are a research project of Weybridge Museum. Work will be carried out from Saturdays to Wednesdays, inclusive, on several sites. Volunteers should report at the Girl Guides Hut, Grotto Road, Weybridge (N.G.R. TQ 07956515).

Small tools (even garden forks) may be brought if convenient. Volunteers are particularly welcome on weekdays.

Enquiries to Weybridge Museum, Church Street (Weybridge 43573).

NOTES

Ewell : 5 Cheam Road (TQ 220626)

This early 16th century house near the centre of Ewell village is due for demolition as noted in *Bulletin* No. 35. It has been visited by Mr. E. Mercer of the Royal Commission for Historic Monuments and is being recorded with the help of members of the Nonsuch and Ewell Antiquarian Society. It is a five-bay continuous jetty house, 50' long and only 15' wide. This type is found in the Chiltern/Wessex area but is uncommon as far east as Surrey. There has been much alteration on the ground floor where a Georgian shop front has been added, but the structure of the first floor is intact and the roof is original. The roof trusses are queen-strut structures, with the main rafters thinning to become common rafters above the clasped perlins. There are wind braces. The house shows archaic features in having a cross passage, and no internal chimney. The two outside chimneys on the jetty side were later additions, as was also the stair wing between the two chimneys.

It is interesting to note that the original front — the jetty side — of this house faces away from Cheam Road. This may show that a more important road ran to the east. By the time the chimneys were added the house had changed direction and now faced Cheam Road.

(Joan M. Harding).

Putney: Further excavations at The Platt (TQ 239767)

The Wandsworth Historical Society carried out a further excavation on both sides of The Platt at the end of last year. The result of previous excavations were noted in *Bulletin* No. 28 (April, 1967). The work was under the direction of Messrs. P. Atkins, N. Farrant and S. Warren.

Previous excavations in The Platt and elsewhere had established that there was an R-B settlement at Putney from c. A.D. 70 to 370. A ditch system of the 1st century, overlaid by a possible hut floor, was discovered during an excavation at the end of 1966 in the garden of Nos. 6-12 The Platt. In the 'floor' was discovered a burial urn of the early 2nd century. The aims of the 1967 excavation, which in the main was into the site of the demolished houses, were the elucidation of the plan of the possible hut and the closer dating of the ditches.

Strata containing mixtures of materials dating from the R-B period to the 18th century came right down to, and in some places penetrated, a cobbled surface of large gravels which represented the first pure R-B level. In these strata there was a considerable amount of R-B material, including coins, from the 3rd and 4th centuries. It must be concluded

that all features of the later R-B period, apart from any pits or ditches, have been effaced by ploughing.

Three non-contemporary ditch systems were revealed, each cutting across the others. One of them flanked on at least two sides an area of cobbles which contained a simple hearth made of re-used standard Roman tiles. The cobbled area does not, after all, seem to have been a hut but was possibly a courtyard. In the surface of this 'courtyard' a 1st century bronze brooch was found. Several small mounds of burnt daub were found on top of the cobbles, two of them containing nails and one a bronze coin, in good condition, of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius. In a number of places around the courtyard small pits containing snail shells were found.

To one side of the courtyard two complete funerary urns dating from the last quarter of the 1st century were found in excellent condition. The larger urn measures 10" in diameter and is of dark grey ware with a white slip around the top. The derivation from a Belgic form is clearly apparent from the cordons and impressed vertical strokes on the shoulder of the urn. The smaller of the two is only three inches in diameter and is decorated with hatched lines and a black slip around the top. The larger urn contained the cremated bones of an adult; the smaller one, which was empty, had no doubt held food for the hereafter.

The local importance of the site is demonstrated by the fact that six Roman coins were found. In normal contexts this is not a great number but to these must be added the ten previously found over a span of five years. Of these, two were chance surface finds and two were found on the same site during the previous excavation. The six latest finds range from a coin of Marcus Aurelius, datable to 177 A.D., to a doubtful coin of Arcadius, 395-408. The attribution of the latter coin to Arcadius is uncertain but it is a very late type. The latest Roman coin previously discovered on the Putney site was one of Valens (c. 370 A.D.). With three coins now datable to the last quarter of the 4th century, a late terminal date for the settlement at Putney becomes less of a hypothesis and more of a certainty. As yet no stratified layers have been found later than the end of the 2nd century but the probability of their existence must be assumed.

(From Wandsworth Historical Society's *News Sheet*).

Recent publications

Wimbledon and Putney Commons by Alan Phillips. (Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators, 2/6.) No date, but apparently published 1967.

This attractively produced and interesting pamphlet deserves to enjoy a good circulation in the vicinity of the commons it describes. It is regrettable that in it the Iron Age hill fort known now as 'Caesar's Camp' is described in unscholarly terms and that the archaeological uncertainties of forty years ago are presented as 'the balance of opinion nowadays'. The author goes on to say, of the nearby spring called 'Caesar's Well', that 'the Iron Age is suggested as the date of foundation' — a surprising remark in every respect. There are other errors of fact and the balance between subjects could, perhaps, be better. A more careful use of printed sources (the bibliography includes only one minor work more recent than 1926) could easily have been employed. D.J.T.

The Canons, Mitcham. (Merton Historical Society. Obtainable from Mrs. Buse, 3 The Cricket Green, Mitcham. 1/6, postage 4d.) Published 1967.

T-junction in Outwood and then right. Mill is on left.

Picketts Farm: retrace road towards Salfords for about 3¼m. Pickett's Lane is on left and Pickett's Farm House is about ¼m along this lane on left.

Tickets: Members 3/-, Non-members 4/-. Obtainable from Miss C. Smith, Elyots, Minster Road, Godalming.

Saturday, 20th to Monday, 22nd.

Visit to the 'POTTERIES' arranged by the SOUTHWARK AND LAMBETH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. Of especial interest to all interested in post-medieval pottery or in Industrial Archaeology. Details from Miss Marion Bennett, 93 Ramsden Road, London, S.W.12.

Saturday, 27th. 3.0 p.m.

S.A.S. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AT GUILDFORD

MAY

Thursday, 2nd. 8.0 p.m.

CURRENT ARCHAEOLOGY. A talk by ANDREW SELKIRK to the NONSUCH AND EWELL ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY at Pit House, Cheam Road, Ewell. Visitors welcome.

Wednesday, 8th. 5.0 p.m.

ROMAN GLASS. A lecture by DR. D. B. HARDEN to the ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House.

Saturday, 25th.

S.A.S. VISIT TO CHALDON AND CROYDON

Visit arranged by the CROYDON NATURAL HISTORY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

11.00 a.m. Chaldon Church (12th century wall painting *Ladder of Salvation*).

From the A23, approx. 2¼m. N of Redhill or 7¼m. S of Croydon, take B 2031 for 1¼m. Turn left at Chaldon Cross Roads for ¼m to the church.

Bus 440A leaves Redhill Station at 9.47 a.m.; Merstham (Feathers) 10.0 a.m. Alight Chaldon Cross Roads. Lifts can be arranged from Chaldon to Croydon.

2.00 p.m. Whitgift Hospital, Croydon. (16th century almshouses).

At the corner of North End and George Street.

3.00 p.m. Archbishop's Palace (12th century onwards).

Old Palace Road entrance.

Teas will be available at the Old Palace at a charge of 2/6 a head. Payments to be made direct but tea must be ordered when applying for tickets.

It is hoped to provide an itinerary, including information about car parks in Croydon, with the tickets.

Members relying on public transport who wish to be met at a convenient point must please let the Secretary know in good time.

Tickets, members 3/- and visitors 4/-, from Miss C. Smith, Elyots, Minster Road, Godalming.

SUMMER

The 'Buildings of England' Group are again arranging a series of weekend visits and tours to buildings of outstanding interest this summer. Enquiries should be addressed to Mr. V. Smith, 'The Buildings of England' Project, Woodlands, Kenwood Drive, Burwood Park, Walton-on-Thames.

This is the first of what is intended to be a series of pamphlets dealing with houses of note in the London Borough of Merton. The Merton Historical Society are demonstrating their far sighted enterprise in undertaking this new venture which has arisen, partially, out of their survey of the buildings of the then Urban District of Merton and Morden which began same years ago. The pamphlet, which is well illustrated as a result of the co-operation of the Mitcham Camera Club, consists principally of two parts. There is an account of the history of the property, derived, apparently, from careful use of secondary sources, and this is followed by an architectural description of the building. This description is not without blemish and two of the photographs should have been captioned early 20th century not early 19th, but the pamphlet presents in readily accessible form a great deal of interesting information. Further essays in the series would be improved by the inclusion of measured plans of the buildings and by the use of a larger type. D.J.T.

Local History Records, Vol. 7, 1967 (The Bourne Society, 52 Buxton Lane, Caterham, CR35HF. 2/6, postage 6d.)

This annual publication of the Bourne Society goes from strength to strength. Included in the current volume are articles on the Rowed map, the Harestone, Victorian mansions in the Bourne Valley, the Guard's Depot at Caterham and recent documentary research into the manor of Woldingham. The standard is so high that it is a pity to have to quarrel with one item. Illustrating a concise and pertinent account of the recent discovery of track of the Croydon, Merstham and Godstone Iron Railway, still *in situ* but threatened with destruction by the proposed motorways, is a beautifully drawn section across the line of two sleeper blocks. This section shows the sleeper blocks sunk into tight fitting holes in the chalk. When this reviewer was invited to visit the excavations while they were in progress, it was apparent that the sleeper blocks rested on the surface of the chalk which had been levelled to receive them. The mistake in the drawing was pointed out when it was first published in the *Surrey Mirror*. D.J.T.

A Dictionary of Local Celebrities compiled by R. C. Gill. (Barnes and Mortlake History Society. Two parts, A-I and J-Z. Obtainable from Mr. F. Mattingley, 23 Shrewsbury Avenue, S.W.14, 2/10 per part post free.) Part I published 1965, Part II published 1967.

A comprehensive list of personalities associated with Barnes and Mortlake who have merited inclusion in the *Dictionary of National Biography* with the nature of the association in each case. Biographical details are summarised and details of extant portraits are given when known. The value of the list, and the immensity of the task of production, is underlined by the remark in the preface that the topographical references in the 73 volumes of the *D. N. B.* are, as yet, unindexed. The preface also contains a hint, which it is to be hoped may be followed up, that a supplementary list of personalities who have escaped inclusion in the *D. N. B.* is required.

This is the hard graft of scholarship and one suspects that there are few local historians who would be able to emulate Mr. Gill. D.J.T.

Carshalton: A Design for Conservation. (The Carshalton Society. Obtainable from Mrs. E. Gascoine, 19 The Square, Carshalton. 4/- plus postage according to quantity.) Published 1967.

The proposals for a conservation area in the centre of Carshalton detailed in this publication were the subject of a note in *Bulletin* No. 37 (January).

Wealden Iron by Ernest Straker. (Chivers Academic Reprints, Portway, Bath. £3. Reprinted 1967.

A reprint of the standard work of 1931 referred to in *Bulletin* No. 38 (February).

MEETINGS

APRIL

Saturday, 6th. 3.0 p.m.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK. A talk by MISS P. L. RANSON to the B.C.W.A.S. at the Darby and Joan Club, Cooper Cres., Nightingale Road, Carshalton. Visitors fee 1/-.

Wednesday, 10th. 5.0 p.m.

CULTIVATED CROPS IN PREHISTORIC EUROPE. A lecture by MRS. J. M. RENFREW to the ROYAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly.

Saturday, 20th.

S.A.S. VISIT TO NORWOOD HILL AND OUTWOOD

Led by MRS. M. TRIER

As the places to be visited are very small it will be necessary to split the party into two. Tickets will be marked 'A' or 'B' as appropriate.

A	B	
11.00 a.m.	11.45 a.m.	Museum of Bygones at Little Chantersluer, Norwood Hill (TQ 235440) by kind permission of Mrs. Ogilvie. (Collecting box).
11.45 a.m.	11.00 a.m.	Highworth Farm, Charlwood (TQ 231426) by kind permission of Col. Girling. 16th century.
2.15 p.m.	2.15 p.m.	All participants are requested to assemble on the green outside Outwood Mill where Mr. Gravett will give a short talk about the mill.
2.30 p.m.	3.15 p.m.	Outwood Mill, Outwood (TQ 329458) by kind permission of Mr. Thomas. (Entrance 1/-).
3.15 p.m.	2.30 p.m.	Pickett's Farm, Pickett's Lane, Salfords (TQ 293459) by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Castle. 16th century.

Lunch can be obtained in Horley and picnic lunches may be taken on Outwood Common (National Trust). Members without transport can be met at Leigh. They are requested to inform Miss Smith if this is required. Bus No. 439 leaves Redhill Station 10.05 a.m., arrives Leigh 10.34 (Winter timetable — please check).

Car travellers. Little Chantersluer: From bus shelter outside Leigh Church turn left at cross roads in middle of village towards Norwood Hill. Pass turning marked 'Reigate' (1m) and in another ½m, passing over a small brook, look for Little Myndthurst on left, followed by sports ground and Rose Cottage. In about 100 yds. turn right at Chantersluer Lodge along farm road marked 'Public Footpath'. Little Chantersluer is about 200 yds. on.

Highworth: from Little Chantersluer continue S to cross roads. Turn right at The Fox Revived P.H. Continue to T-junction and turn right again. Highworth Farm is about 300 yds. along on left.

Outwood Mill; from Horley go N on A23 to Salfords (2-3m) and turn right along road marked 'Outwood'. In about 4½m turn left at